

TEC/WG Tribal Topic Group Conference Call Summary April 6, 1999

Participants:

Kevin Blackwell (DOT), Milton (JR) Bluehouse (DOE/EM), Jozette Booth (DOE/YMPO), Judith Bradbury (PNL), Inez Dommer (Oneida Nation), Margaret Fernandez (DOE/EM-22), Ken Gray (CTUIR), Margaret Hodge (DOE/AL), Judith Holm (DOE/NTPA), Stephanie Martz (NRC), Stanley Paytiamo (Pueblo of Acoma), Wilda Portner (SAIC), Dan Tano (DOE/RL), Elissa Turner (DOE/RW), Catherine Volk (DOE/EM-22), Heather Westra (Prairie Island Indian Community)

Major issues discussed during this meeting included: updates on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on Tribal Prenotification, the Federal Railroad Administration letter on inspection rights, Tribal Consultation Issue Paper, coordination of activities with the Rail Issues Topic Group, and the Umbrella Grant.

Action Items:

- Wilda Portner: Arrange for Stephanie Martz, NRC, to be added to email and standard mailing lists for TEC/WG.
- Wilda Portner: Contact Mike Butler, obtain copy of Rail Matrix summary and distribute to group.
- Ken Gray: Provide Judith Holm with copy of prenotification agreement with Navy.
- All: Review Rail Matrix summary and provide Judith Holm with comments.

Summary:

The NRC ANPR on Tribal Notification was again the first topic of discussion. Stephanie Martz reported the issue has been turned over to NRC Staff for forwarding to the Commissioners. The announcement may be issued in late spring.

Kevin Blackwell said the rail inspection letter is still pending. The importance of the issue has been stressed to DOT Chief Counsel and other DOT officials.

Judith Holm reported that the Umbrella Grant proposal is due for presentation to the Senior Executive Forum on May 4. The scope will be similar to Section 180C language, with planning, public information, training, and equipment considerations added. She is planning to talk to the Funding Assistance Topic Group from the TEC/WG to see if there is support outside of DOE for this type of funding activity. Heather Westra asked if stakeholders would have a chance to review the Umbrella Grant and Judith responded that once DOE has something together, it will be distributed for review.

Judith Holm announced that DOE is revising the Tribal Consultation Paper and will get it out to TEC/WG. She said it will be necessary to take into consideration the upcoming changes to the DOE Indian Policy. In response to a question from Ken Gray, Judith replied that she would like to tie the paper in with DOE meetings with Tribal governments, such as the Secretary of Energy's Tribal Summit.

Kevin Blackwell said that DOT was meeting on April 7 to discuss DOT Native American policy. DOT hopes to have the policy completed within the next month.

It was announced that there will be a discussion of transportation issues at the April 27-28 STGWG meeting.

Derrick Watchman and Chris Stearns will be meeting with Tribes on April 26. Both will also be in Albuquerque for a meeting on April 21 and 22, where it is hoped they will address transportation issues.

The Rail Topic Group is putting together a summary that explains what the regulatory matrix (faxed to this group in April) is all about. A summary of the CVSA and Rail Matrix was distributed at an earlier TEC/WG meeting. Kevin Blackwell pointed out that TEC/WG is trying to firm up the WIPP/PIG comparison document for distribution at the July TEC/WG meeting. Following that meeting, it is planned to sunset the Rail Topic Group.

In other general discussions, Kevin Blackwell said that the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have reached an agreement with Naval Reactors on shipments, covering escorts and notification. Ken Gray also discussed the prenotification agreement between the CTUIR and the Navy and said he would provide Judith Holm with a copy.